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In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1987

FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN INSURANCE CORPORATION AS RECEIVER FOR BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, PETITIONER

v.

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, ET AL.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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QUESTION PRESENTED

Whether claims against the assets of an insolvent, federally insured savings and loan association must be presented in the first instance in federal receivership proceedings in accordance with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board's regulations for the administrative resolution of such claims.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

In addition to the parties listed in the caption, Beverly Hills Savings and Beverly Hills Savings & Loan Association are respondents in this case.

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No.

FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN INSURANCE CORPORATION AS RECEIVER FOR BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, PETITIONER

v.

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, ET AL.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

The Solicitor General, on behalf of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, petitions for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in this case.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the court of appeals (App., *infra*, 1a-3a) is unreported. The opinion of the district court (App., *infra*, 4a-25a) is reported at 624 F. Supp. 948.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the court of appeals (App., *infra*, 26a) was entered on April 3, 1987, and a petition for rehearing was denied on June 1, 1987 (App., *infra*, 27a-28a). On August 20, 1987, Justice Scalia extended the time for filing a petition for a writ of certiorari to and including September 17, 1987. The jurisdiction of the Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. 1254(1).

STATUTES AND REGULATION INVOLVED

Section 5(d)(6)(C) of the Home Owners Loan Act of 1933, 12 U.S.C. 1464(d)(6)(C) provides:

> Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no court may take any action for or toward the removal of any conservator or receiver [appointed by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board], or, except at the instance of the Board, restrain or affect the exercise of powers or functions of a conservator or receiver.

Section 5(d)(11) of the Home Owners Loan Act of 1933, 12 U.S.C. 1464(d)(11), provides:

> The Board shall have power to make rules and regulations for the reorganization, consolidation, liquidation, and dissolution of associations, for the merger of associations with associations or with any institutions the accounts of which are insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, for associations in conservatorship and receivership, and for the conduct of conservatorships and receiverships; and the Board may, by regulation or otherwise, provide for the exercise of functions by members, directors, or officers of an association during conservatorship or receivership.

Section 406(d) of the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1729(d), provides:

> In connection with the liquidation of insured institutions, the [Federal Savings and Loan Insurance] Corporation shall have power to carry on the business of and to collect all obligations to the insured institutions, to settle, compromise, or release claims in favor of or against the insured institutions, and to do all other things that may be necessary in connection therewith, subject only to the regulation of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, or, in cases where the Corporation has been appointed conservator, receiver, or legal custodian solely by a public authority having juridiction over the matter other than said

Board, subject only to the regulation of such public authority.

Pertinent regulations of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board provide in relevant part (12 C.F.R. 549.4):

> (a) When directed to do so by the [Bank] Board, the receiver shall promptly publish a notice to the association's creditors to present their claims, with proof thereof, to the receiver by a date specified in the notice * * *. Claims filed after the specified date shall be disallowed, except as the [Bank] Board may approve them for whole or part payment from the association's assets remaining undistributed at the time of approval. The receiver shall mail a similar notice to any creditor shown on the association's books at the creditor's last address appearing thereon.
>
> (b) The receiver shall allow any claim seasonably received and proved to its satisfaction. The receiver may wholly or partly disallow any creditor claim or claim of security, preference, or priority not so proved, and shall notify the claimant of the disallowance and the reason therefor. * * * Unless, within 30 days after notice is mailed, the claimant files a written request for payment regardless of the disallowance, disallowance shall be final, except as the [Bank] Board may otherwise determine.

STATEMENT

This case arises from the decision by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (Bank Board) to appoint the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) as receiver for Beverly Hills Savings and Loan Association (Old Beverly Hills), a federally chartered and federally insured savings and loan institution.[1] FSLIC seeks review of the Ninth Circuit's decision that creditors of failed savings and loan associations for which FSLIC has been ap-

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[1] The Bank Board is an independent agency in the Executive Branch of the United States organized pursuant to the Federal Home Loan

pointed receiver by the Bank Board are not required by the Bank Board's statutes and regulations to exhaust the agency's mandatory administrative procedures for the initial resolution of creditors' claims, but may instead pursue those claims in independent judicial proceedings. According to the Ninth Circuit, the decision to require exhaustion of the Bank Board's administrative remedies is a matter committed to the discretion of the district courts. See App., *infra*, 2a.

1. On April 23, 1985, the Bank Board determined that Old Beverly Hills was "insolvent in that (1) its assets are less than its obligations to its creditors and others, including the holders of withdrawable accounts, and (2) [it] is in an unsafe and unsound condition to transact business" (E.R. 64).[2] Based on this determination, the Bank Board exercised its statutory authority (12 U.S.C. (& Supp. III) 1464(d)(6)(A)(i) and (iii)) to appoint FSLIC as receiver of Old Beverly Hills (App., *infra*, 5a; E.R. 64). FSLIC as receiver immediately organized Beverly Hills Federal Savings and Loan Association (New Beverly Hills)[3] and

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Bank Act, 12 U.S.C. (& Supp. III) 1421 *et seq.* The Bank Board has broad discretionary powers over the operation of the savings and loan industry, including the power to appoint FSLIC as conservator or receiver for a federally insured savings and loan association, ex parte and without prior court approval, if the Bank Board determines that statutory grounds exist. 12 U.S.C. (& Supp. III) 1464(d)(6), 1729(c)(1)(B). Similarly, the Bank Board has broad discretionary powers to make rules and regulations for the liquidation of savings and loan associations and for the conduct of receivers and conservators appointed by the Board. 12 U.S.C. 1464 (d)(11). The Bank Board is also the operating head of FSLIC, a corporate governmental agency that is responsible, pursuant to Title IV of the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1724 *et seq.*, for insuring the accounts of all federally chartered savings and loan associations and most state-chartered savings and loan associations.

[2] "E.R." denotes the Excerpts of Record filed in the court of appeals.

[3] New Beverly Hills' charter was amended and its official name is now Beverly Hills Savings, A Federal Savings and Loan Association (E.R. 45).

transferred substantially all of the assets and liabilities of Old Beverly Hills to New Beverly Hills (App., *infra*, 5a-6a; E.R. 67-75).

One of the assets transferred to New Beverly Hills was an office building that Old Beverly Hills had purchased from Murdock-SC Associates for a combination of $32.58 million in cash and an unsecured, subordinated promissory note for $3.62 million payable in April 1991 (the Note) (E.R. 28-31, 156). FSLIC as receiver did not transfer to New Beverly Hills, but rather retained in the receivership, Old Beverly Hills' liabilities to holders of its subordinated debt (App., *infra*, 6a). In addition to the liabilities retained in the receivership, FSLIC as receiver retained certain assets of Old Beverly Hills to meet the expenses of the receivership and, to the extent any such assets remain, to pay Old Beverly Hills' liabilities to holders of its subordinated debt (E.R. 81-82, 101-102).

2. Shortly after the receivership was established, on May 2, 1985, Murdock filed an action styled "Complaint for Foreclosure of Vendor's Lien" in the California Superior Court seeking to accelerate payment on the Note (App., *infra*, 6a; E.R. 20-31). Murdock named as defendants Old Beverly Hills and New Beverly Hills. Murdock also filed and recorded a Notice of Lis Pendens against the office building (E.R. 232-35).

On June 13, 1985, FSLIC as receiver removed Murdock's action to the United States District Court for the Central District of California (App., *infra*, 7a). On that same date, FSLIC as receiver and New Beverly Hills filed a motion in the district court to dismiss Murdock's complaint, arguing that Murdock, like Old Beverly Hills' other creditors, must submit its claim for initial determination in the federal receivership proceedings. See 12 C.F.R. 549.4. FSLIC as receiver and New Beverly Hills also asked the district court to expunge the lis pendens. On December 20, 1985, the district court granted FSLIC's and New Beverly Hills' motion to dismiss Murdock's fore-

closure action but denied their motion to expunge the lis pendens. App., *infra,* 4a-25a.

In dismissing Murdock's foreclosure action, the district court relied on *North Mississippi Savings & Loan Ass'n* v. *Hudspeth,* 756 F.2d 1096 (5th Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 474 U.S. 1054 (1986). In *Hudspeth,* the Fifth Circuit held that the Bank Board's statutes and regulations (12 U.S.C. 1464(d)(6)(C), 1729(d); 12 C.F.R. 549.4) preclude creditors of failed thrifts for which FSLIC has been appointed federal receiver by the Bank Board from seeking judicial resolution of their claims in the first instance. The Fifth Circuit concluded that the statutory and regulatory scheme totally ousts the courts from making the initial determination of the validity of creditors' claims (756 F.2d at 1102):

> [R]esolution of even the facial merits of claims outside of the statutory reorganization process would delay the receivership function of distribution of assets: the FSLIC would not be able to determine how much to pay other claimants until the termination of the parallel litigation. Given the overriding Congressional purpose of expediting and facilitating the FSLIC's task as receiver, such a delay is a "restraint" within the scope of the statute. [4]

Applying *Hudspeth* to this case, the district court concluded that Murdock was required to present its claim for initial resolution in the receivership proceedings (App., *infra,* 17a). The court explained the interference with FSLIC's administration of the receivership that would result from any other ruling (*id.* at 15a-16a):

> The foreclosure by Murdock of its vendor's lien would affect the functions of the FSLIC in its capacity as the receiver of Old BHS. If it were allowed to

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[4] The Fifth Circuit has reaffirmed *Hudspeth* in *FSLIC* v. *Bonfanti,* No. 87-3012 (May 8, 1987), petition for cert. pending, No. 87-255 (filed Aug. 5, 1987), and *Chupik Corp.* v. *FSLIC,* 790 F.2d 1269 (1986).

> foreclose its vendor's lien on the property in question the approximately $3,600,000 debt evidenced by the promissory note would be extinguished. This would deprive the FSLIC of a bargaining chip in its attempt to allocate the assets and liabilities of old BHS. * * *
>
> More importantly, during the foreclosure proceedings, and until the property was executed upon, the purchase price ascertained, and the property actually sold, the FSLIC would not know whether or not to make the interest payments on the note to its holder, Murdock. This would disrupt and delay the receivership function and is unacceptable by reason of 12 U.S.C. section 1464(d)(6)(C).

3. Relying solely on its decision in *Morrison-Knudsen Co.* v. *CHG International, Inc.*, 811 F.2d 1209 (1987), petition for cert. pending *sub nom. FSLIC* v. *Stevenson Associates*, No. 87-____ (filed Sept. 17, 1987), the Ninth Circuit reversed the district court's judgment of dismissal and remanded the case for trial on the merits of Murdock's foreclosure action. App., *infra*, 2a. In *Morrison-Knudsen*, the Ninth Circuit, expressly declining to follow the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Hudspeth*, refused to permit FSLIC and the Bank Board to require creditors to present their claims against failed thrifts for initial resolution in the federal receivership proceeding. Notwithstanding the court of appeals' express recognition of the validity of the Bank Board's regulations creating the administrative claims procedure (*Morrison-Knudsen*, 811 F.2d at 1217), the Ninth Circuit held that neither the Bank Board's statutes nor its implementing regulations expressly grant FSLIC as receiver the power to render "adjudicative" decisions (*id.* at 1216-1219).

Thus, the Ninth Circuit concluded in *Morrison-Knudsen* that creditors of a savings and loan association in federal receivership may assert claims against the assets of the institution in state or federal court without exhausting the administrative remedies contained in the Bank Board's

regulations (811 F.2d at 1222). The court did suggest that trial courts, in their discretion, may compel a creditor to present its claim to FSLIC as receiver before seeking judicial resolution of the claim (*id.* at 1223-1224). However, a decision to require exhaustion would be based on an ad hoc balancing of competing interests, rather than on the Bank Board's mandatory exhaustion regulations (*ibid.*).

As in *Morrison-Knudsen*, the Ninth Circuit in this case, after first remanding Murdock's foreclosure action for trial on the merits, suggested that the district court might wish to consider staying that action pending Murdock's exhaustion of administrative remedies (App., *infra*, 2a):

> We note that while FSLIC has refused Murdock's requests for payment, Murdock has yet to request payment from FSLIC's parent agency, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Accordingly, the district court may consider staying the action until the Bank Board refuses either to transfer liability for the promissory note to New BHS or to pay the obligation. *See Morrison-Knudsen* [811 F.2d at 1223-1224].[5]

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

The court of appeals' decision, in direct conflict with the Fifth Circuit's decisions in *FSLIC* v. *Bonfanti*, No 87-3012 (May 8, 1987), petition for cert. pending, No 87-255 (filed Aug. 5, 1987); *Chupik Corp.* v. *FSLIC*, 790 F. 2d 1269 (1986); and *North Mississippi Savings & Loan Ass'n* v. *Hudspeth*, *supra*, holds that the Bank Board's statutes and regulations do not require creditors of failed thrifts for which FSLIC acts as federal receiver to present their claims to FSLIC and the Bank Board for initial adminis-

[5] The court of appeals also affirmed the district court's refusal to expunge the lis pendens for the reasons stated by the district court, directing that the lis pendens "shall not be expunged until final appellate review of the merits of Murdock's claim" (App., *infra*, 2a).

trative resolution. Instead, the rule in the Ninth Circuit is that a trial court may require a claimant to exhaust the Bank Board's administrative remedies purely as a matter of discretion, to be decided in each case according to a balancing of interests. See *Morrison-Knudsen*, 811 F.2d at 1223-1224.

The Ninth Circuit's ruling that creditors' claims are not "switched to the administrative track" (*Hudspeth*, 756 F.2d at 1103) for initial resolution when FSLIC is appointed receiver by the Bank Board presents a question of substantial practical importance for the orderly and efficient administration of all federal receiverships for which FSLIC acts as receiver. For that reason, as well as to resolve the conflict in the circuits, the Solicitor General has determined to acquiesce in the petition for a writ of certiorari filed in *Bonfanti* v. *FSLIC*, No 87-255, in which the same question is presented. The factors supporting plenary review in *Bonfanti*, which will be set forth in our response to the petition in that case, make it appropriate to hold the instant petition for disposition in light of the Court's disposition of the petition in *Bonfanti*.[6]

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[6] Our brief suggesting that the petition in *Bonfanti* be granted will be filed shortly, and we will provide a copy to respondents' counsel in this case. The brief will be filed under the caption *Magd E. Zohdi, et al.* v. *FSLIC*, No. 87-255, the correct title of that case in this Court.

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be held pending disposition of the petition in No. 87-255, and then disposed of as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES FRIED
Solicitor General

JORDAN LUKE
General Counsel
Federal Home Loan Bank Board

SEPTEMBER 1987

APPENDIX A

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

C.A. No. 86-5600
86-5639
D.C. No. CV-85-3908-RG

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, PLAINTIFF-APPELLANT/CROSS APPELLEE,

VS.

BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS, A FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOC.; BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, DEFENDANTS-APPELLEES/CROSS APPELLANTS.

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA HONORABLE RICHARD A. GADBOIS, DISTRICT JUDGE, PRESIDING

Argued and Submitted February 6, 1987
Pasadena, California

Filed Apr. 3, 1987

ORDER

Before: NELSON and BEEZER, Circuit Judges, and LEAVY,* District Judge

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* The Honorable Edward Leavy, United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, sitting by designation.

Murdock-SC Associates (Murdock) appeals from dismissal of its action to foreclose a vendor's lien on an office building in the possession of Beverly Hills Savings, a Federal Savings and Loan Association (New BHS) for failure to exhaust administrative remedies. *Murdock v. Beverly Hills Federal Savings,* 624 F. Supp. 948 (C.D. Cal. 1985). Murdock originally sold the building to now defunct Beverly Hills Savings and Loan Association (Old BHS). As part of the purchase/assumption reorganization of Old BHS, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) transferred the building, but not the promissory note, to New BHS.

New BHS and FSLIC, as receiver for Old BHS, appeal the district court's refusal to expunge a lis pendens on the building. Murdock recorded the lis pendens pending resolution of its claim against the building.

In *Morrison-Knudsen Co. v. CHG International Inc.,* No. 85-2063 etc. (filed February 25, 1987), this Court held that FSLIC does not possess power to adjudicate claims against insolvent savings and loan associations. The portion of the judgment dismissing Murdock's suit is REVERSED. We REMAND the case for trial on the merits of Murdock's foreclosure claim.

We note that while FSLIC has refused Murdock's requests for payment, Murdock has yet to request payment from FSLIC's parent agency, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Accordingly, the district court may consider staying the action until the Bank Board refuses either to transfer liability for the promissory note to New BHS or to pay the obligation. *See Morrison-Knudsen,* slip op. at 29-30.

We AFFIRM the district court's refusal to expunge the lis pendens for reasons stated by the district court. *See Murdock,* 624 F. Supp. at 956-59. The lis pendens shall not be expunged until final appellate review of the merits of Murdock's claim.

AFFIRMED in part, REVERSED in part, and REMANDED for further proceedings consistent with this Order.

APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

No. CV 85-3908 RG(Bx)

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, A PARTNERSHIP, PLAINTIFF,

v.

BEVERLY HILLS FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A CORPORATION, ET AL., DEFENDANTS.

Dec. 20, 1985
[Entered Dec. 31, 1985]

ORDER

GADBOIS, District Judge.

In April, 1984 the plaintiff, Murdock-SC Associates ("Murdock"), a California partnership, sold an office building for approximately $36,000,000 to Beverly Hills Savings and Loan Association ("Old BHS"), a California-chartered, federally insured savings and loan association. As part of the purchase price for the building Old BHS delivered to Murdock an unsecured, subordinated promissory note (the "promissory note" or the "note") for the sum of approximately $3,600,000, plus interest. The promissory note provided in part:

> The payment of principal of interest on this Subordinated Note is hereby expressly subordinated in right of payment on liquidation to the extent and in the manner hereinafter set forth to the prior payment in full of all claims (including post-default interest) against [Old BHS] having the same priority as savings account holders or any higher priority including, without limitation, obligations to any Federal Home

> Loan Bank, indebtedness to commercial banks not expressed to be subordinated to any other obligations of [Old BHS], obligations in respect of loans in process and advance payments made by borrowers from the association for taxes and insurance and obligations in respect of funds held in a trust relationship, whether outstanding on the date of the original issue of this Subordinated Note or incurred after such date. The indebtedness, obligations, claims and liabilities to which this Subordinated Note is subordinated are hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Senior Liabilities."

(The Note, at 1-2.) The note further provides that in the event of any receivership, insolvency, or bankruptcy proceedings of Old BHS the Senior Liabilities shall be preferred in payment over the note and such Senior Liabilities shall first be paid and satisfied in full before any payment of any kind shall be made on either the principal or interest on the note. *Id.* Finally, the note states that it is not secured by the assets of Old BHS and is not eligible as collateral for any loan of Old BHS. *Id.*

On April 23, 1985 the Federal Home Loan Bank Board ("FHLBB") found that Old BHS was insolvent. Consequently, pursuant to its authority under 12 U.S.C. § 1729(c)(1)(B), the FHLBB appointed the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation ("FSLIC") as receiver of Old BHS. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §§ 1729(c)(1)(B), (c)(3), and (d), the FHLBB accorded the FSLIC all powers, rights, and privileges of a receiver specified by statute and regulation, including but not limited to those set forth in 12 U.S.C. § 1464(d), 12 U.S.C. § 1729 and 12 C.F.R. §§ 547, 549. On that same date, April 23, 1985, the FHLBB, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §§ 1729(a), (b)(1)(A)(iv) authorized the FSLIC as receiver to organize a new federal savings and loan association in order to facilitate the liquidation of Old BHS. On that

date the FSLIC organized a new, federally-chartered savings and loan association under the name Beverly Hills Federal Savings and Loan Association ("New BHS"). The FSLIC as receiver sold almost all of the assets of Old BHS to New BHS pursuant to an acquisition agreement between the FSLIC as receiver and New BHS. The acquisition agreement provides, *inter alia,* that the liabilities of Old BHS assumed by New BHS "do . . . not mean or refer to any obligation . . . to a holder of subordinated debt issued by [Old BHS]."

Also on that date the FSLIC in its corporate capacity assumed from the FSLIC in its receiver capacity for Old BHS certain assets and liabilities of the receiver pursuant to a receiver's agreement between the FSLIC as receiver and the FSLIC in its corporate capacity. The receiver's agreement provides in part:

> The CORPORATION [the FSLIC in its corporate capacity] hereby assumes and undertakes to pay and discharge those liabilities of the RECEIVER not assumed by the ACQUIRING ASSOCIATION [New BHS], except that the CORPORATION specifically does not assume or agree to discharge, and by virtue of this Agreement does not assume or agree to discharge . . . any obligation of [Old BHS] to holders of subordinated debt issued by [Old BHS]. . . .

The combined effect of the acquisition and receiver's agreements is that Old BHS's liabilities to subordinated debt holders passed neither to New BHS nor to the FSLIC in its corporate capacity but remained with the FSLIC in its receiver capacity.

Murdock originally brought this action in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles against New BHS and Old BHS alleging that Old BHS defaulted under the terms of the note by, *inter alia,* failing to meet the net worth and federal insurance reserve requirements set forth in the note. The only cause of ac-

tion alleged by Murdock in its original complaint filed in state court was one to foreclose a vendor's lien against the real property in question—the office building—pursuant to California Civil Code section 3046. Murdock thereafter filed a notice of lis pendens with the Office of the Los Angeles County Recorder pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code section 409(a).

On or about June 13, 1985 the FSLIC, as receiver for Old BHS, removed this action to federal court pursuant to 12 U.S.C. section 1730(k)(1), which provides that the FSLIC in its corporate capacity may remove any action to which it is a party from state court to the United States district court for the district embracing the locale where the state court action is pending. Murdock subsequently amended its complaint to include a claim for declaratory relief.

Presently before this court are the FSLIC's motion to dismiss pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6), and its motion pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code section 409.1, to expunge the notice of lis pendens on file with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

The first argument put forth by the FSLIC in support of its motion to dismiss is that Murdock's only remedy is to file a claim with the receiver and, if dissatisfied, to appeal to the FHLBB. This argument is persuasive and supports dismissal of this action.

12 U.S.C. section 1729(c)(1)(B), provides that notwithstanding any provision of any state constitution or statute, if a state-chartered, federally insured savings and loan association goes bankrupt "the [FHLBB] shall have exclusive power and jurisdiction to appoint the Corporation [the FSLIC] as sole conservator or receiver of such institution." *Id.* Congress has given the FSLIC as receiver complete authority—subject to review by the FHLBB—to adjudicate claims and to allocate the assets and liabilities of a failed association in connection with its liquidation. 12 U.S.C. section 1729(d), provides in pertinent part:

> In connection with the liquidation of insured institutions, the Corporation [the FSLIC] shall have power to carry on the business of and to collect all obligations to the insured institutions, to settle, compromise, or release claims in favor of or against the insured institutions, and to do all other things that may be necessary in connection therewith, subject only to the regulation of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. . . .

Id. More particularly, in 12 U.S.C. § 1729(c)(1)(B)(i)-(II), (b)(1)(A)(iv)-(vi), (a), Congress has further authorized the FSLIC as receiver to organize a new federal association and to transfer to the new federal association any or all of the assets and liabilities of the old association.

Under FHLBB regulations governing liquidation of a failed association by a receiver, 12 C.F.R. § 549, a creditor of such an association in due course may present a claim to the receiver. *Id.* § 549.4(a). Under section 1729(d) and 12 C.F.R. § 549.4(b), the creditor may appeal the receiver's decision on its claim to the FHLBB. FSLIC argues simply that under these federal statutes and regulations Murdock's only remedy is to file a claim with the receiver of Old BHS, i.e., the FSLIC in its receivership capacity and, if dissatisfied, to appeal the receiver's decision to the FHLBB.

The second FSLIC argument in support of its motion to dismiss is that federal law prohibits any court from taking any action that affects the functions of a receiver, and that permitting Murdock to foreclose his vendor's lien on the property in question would constitute such action. The argument is sound.

12 U.S.C. section 1464(d)(6)(C) provides: "Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no court may . . . , except at the instance of the [FHLBB], restrain or affect the exercise of powers or functions of a conservator or receiver [of a failed savings and loan association]." *Id.*

The FSLIC argues that section 1464(d)(6)(C) requires this court to dismiss this action because any attempt to foreclose its vendor's lien against the property in question would necessarily restrain or affect the exercise of the powers or functions of the receiver of Old BHS, the FSLIC *qua* receiver. In support of this argument the FSLIC relies on the scant case law interpreting this statute. Neither the Supreme Court nor the Ninth Circuit has interpreted section 1464(d)(6)(C). The only Court of Appeals decision interpreting this statute is *North Mississippi Savings & Loan Association v. Hudspeth*, 756 F.2d 1096 (5th Cir.1985). The plaintiff in that case, Hudspeth, a former president of North Mississippi Savings & Loan Association ("Old North"), was removed as president of Old North but continued to receive monthly payments from Old North pursuant to a deferred compensation agreement. In 1982 Old North filed an action in Mississippi state court for a declaration that its agreement with Hudspeth either did not exist or was terminable. Hudspeth counterclaimed for specific performance or damages for breach of contract. In April, 1983 the state of Mississippi put Old North into state receivership and appointed the FSLIC as state receiver. On that same day the FHLBB determined that Old North was insolvent and "federalized" the receivership by naming the FSLIC as the sole receiver under 12 U.S.C. section 1729(c)(1)(B). The FSLIC then formed a new federally-chartered institution, New North Mississippi Federal Savings and Loan Association ("New North"), and appointed a federal conservator to run New North. Old North transferred to New North essentially all of its assets and all liabilities except Old North's liabilities to its stockholders and any obligation owed by Old North under compensation agreements such as Hudspeth's. The FSLIC, as receiver for Old North, then terminated all such agreements and stopped the payments to Hudspeth. The FSLIC, on behalf of Old North, unsuccessfully moved in

state court to dismiss the counterclaim. Hudspeth then filed an amended counterclaim joining New North as a party, alleging that New North was a transferee in interest under Mississippi law, and seeking actual and punitive damages from Old North and New North. The FSLIC and New North removed the action to federal court and moved to dismiss Hudspeth's counterclaim. Hudspeth moved to remand to state court. The district court denied the motion to remand and granted the motion to dismiss the counterclaim. On appeal the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed.

The Fifth Circuit first held that the case had properly been removed to federal court pursuant to 12 U.S.C. section 1730(k)(1). The appellate panel then considered whether the district court properly had dismissed the case under 12 U.S.C. sections 1464(d)(6)(C) and 1729(d). In discussing Congress' motives in enacting section 1464(d)(6)(C), the Fifth Circuit stated: "Congress wanted the FSLIC to be able to act quickly and decisively in reorganizing, operating, or dissolving a failed institution, and intended that the FSLIC's ability to accomplish these goals not be interfered with by other judicial or regulatory authorities." *Hudspeth,* 756 F.2d at 1101. The court went on to note that:

> [E]ven the facial merits of claims outside of the statutory reorganization process would delay the receivership function of distribution of assets: the FSLIC would not be able to determine how much to pay other claimants until the termination of the parallel litigation. Given the overriding Congressional purpose of expediting and facilitating the FSLIC's task as receiver, such a delay is a "restraint" within the scope of the statute.

Id. at 1102.

The FSLIC relies on *Hudspeth* in support of its argument that this action should be dismissed under section

1464(d)(6)(C). The FSLIC, however, does not discuss why *Hudspeth* is applicable to the case at hand but merely recites the facts of that case and concludes that the case at hand is similar and should be treated in the same manner.

The FSLIC also cites a number of district court cases in support of its argument that section 1464(d)(6)(C) requires dismissal of this action. The FSLIC does not discuss these cases but merely summarizes their holdings parenthetically. The most relevant of these cases are: *Gibraltar Building and Loan Association, Inc. v. State Savings and Loan Association,* 607 F.Supp. 722, 723 (N.D.Cal.1985) (holding that 12 U.S.C. §§ 1464(d)(6)(C) and 1730(k)(1) preclude a court from entering a protective order or from issuing a writ of attachment against the FSLIC in its capacity as a receiver of a failed savings and loan association on income derived from various holdings of the failed savings and loan association); and *First Savings & Loan Association v. First Federal Savings & Loan Association,* 531 F.Supp. 251, 253 (D.Hawaii 1981) (holding that section 1464(d)(6)(C) precludes a court from issuing an injunction ordering the purchaser of the assets of a failed savings and loan association to restore those assets to the receiver of the failed institution). These cases conclude the FSLIC's argument on this point.

Murdock does not respond to the FSLIC's two arguments separately but treats them as one argument. Murdock's opposition to the FSLIC's motion to dismiss concentrates on the FSLIC's second argument, i.e., that section 1464(d)(6)(C) requires this court to dismiss this action because any attempt to foreclose the vendor's lien on the property in question would necessarily interfere with the powers and functions of Old BHS's receiver.

It argues that foreclosure of its vendor's lien on the property would in no way restrain or affect the exercise of powers or functions of the receiver. Murdock argues that it is not asserting a claim against either Old BHS or New

BHS on the contractual obligation represented by the note and does not challenge the receiver's allocation of the assets and liabilities of Old BHS. In fact, Murdock concedes that it has no recourse against New BHS on the note because the FSLIC did not transfer Old BHS's liability on the note to New BHS. Murdock contends that the crucial point is that its suit to foreclose its vendor's lien against the property is not the equivalent of a suit against New BHS on the note, would not obligate New BHS to make the payments called for by the note, and thus would not affect the receiver's allocation of Old BHS's liabilities.

In support of its argument Murdock cites but does not discuss California Civil Code section 2890, which states: "The creation of a lien does not of itself imply that any person is bound to perform the act for which the lien is a security." *Id.*

Murdock argues also that the situation in the case at hand is analogous to one in which property subject to a mortgage or deed of trust to secure a payment obligation is conveyed by the debtor to a third party. Relying on *Snidow v. Hill,* 87 Cal.App.2d 803, 807, 197 P.2d 801, 803 (1948) ("A mere grant of the property subject to a mortgage debt is not sufficient to impose any personal liability on the grantee to pay the debt or perform any of the obligations thereof."), Murdock contends that in such a situation the creditor does not have a cause of action against the third party to enforce the debtor's payment obligation because the third party is not a party to the contract.

Murdock argues, however, that the creditor—and by analogy, itself in the case at hand—*does* have a cause of action against the third party to foreclose his mortgage or deed of trust on the property in the hands of the third party, and this cause of action exists regardless of the fact that the third party has no contractual obligation whatsoever to the creditor. In support of this position Murdock cites

Ward v. De Oca, 120 Cal. 102, 105, 52 P. 130, 131 (1898) (holding implicitly that a mortgagee may foreclose on property conveyed by the mortgagor to a third party grantee even though the third party grantee is not liable on the promissory note secured by the mortgage).

In addition, Murdock attempts to distinguish the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Hudspeth* from the case at hand. It argues that the plaintiff in *Hudspeth*, Hudspeth himself, was attempting to proceed against New North on the claimed contractual agreement itself while in the case at hand Murdock is not suing New BHS on the note but is suing to foreclose its vendor's lien on the property in question. Apparently Murdock argues that although section 1464(d)(6)(C) may bar the sort of claim asserted by the plaintiff in *Hudspeth,* it does not preclude its claim in the case at hand.

The foregoing arguments attack the FSLIC's second argument, i.e., that section 1464(d)(6)(C) bars Murdock's claim to foreclose its vendor's lien against the property in question because such a lien would restrain or affect the powers or functions of Old BHS's receiver, the FSLIC in its receivership capacity. Murdock does proffer one argument in opposition to the FSLIC's first argument, i.e., that Murdock's sole remedy is to file a claim with the FSLIC as Old BHS's receiver and, if dissatisfied, to appeal to the FHLBB.

Murdock maintains that if the court dismisses this action and orders its notice of lis pendens expunged New BHS will sell the property in question to a third party. Murdock contends that since a party that purchases land in good faith and for value takes the property free of any liens of the type in issue here, Cal.Civ.Code § 3048 its rights will be extinguished upon the sale of the property without an adjudication on the merits of its claim either by this court or Old BHS's receiver and the FHLBB. Furthermore, Murdock argues that since the FHLBB cannot

adjudicate its rights to a vendor's lien it will be deprived of a forum in which to establish this lien. Thus, Murdock concludes that its administrative remedies before Old BHS's receiver and the FHLBB are inadequate and thus need not be exhausted before it can pursue this action. *NLRB v. Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America,* 391 U.S. 418, 426 n.8, 88 S.Ct. 1717, 1723 n.8, 20 L.Ed.2d 706 ("The requirement of exhaustion [of administrative remedies] is a matter within the sound discretion of the courts. . . . Exhaustion is not required when the administrative remedies are inadequate."); *see Renegotiation Board v. Bannercraft Clothing Co.,* 415 U.S. 1, 94 S.Ct. 1028, 39 L.Ed.2d 123 (1974) (exhaustion of administrative remedies not required if irreparable injury will result unless immediate judicial review is permitted).

Finally, Murdock puts forth two other arguments in opposition to the FSLIC's motion to dismiss and its motion to expunge the notice of lis pendens. First, it argues that there was a complex sale and lease-back arrangement between the parties with respect to the property in question before Murdock sold the property to Old BHS. Murdock contends rather conclusively that the complexity of this arrangement, as well as the fact that its administrative remedies are inadequate, requires this court to deny both of the FSLIC's motions on the merits. Second, with respect to the FSLIC's motion to dismiss only, Murdock argues that this motion is moot because it attacks the original complaint filed in this action and that complaint has been superseded by the first amended complaint.

Both of FSLIC's arguments support dismissal. As discussed earlier, section 1464(d)(6)(C) precludes the court from restraining of affecting the exercise of powers or functions of a receiver of a failed savings and loan association. Thus, this statute prevents the court from taking any action that restrains or affects the FSLIC's powers or

functions as the receiver of Old BHS. This brings us to the heart of the controversy between the FSLIC and Murdock: whether foreclosure of Murdock's vendor's lien on the property in question would restrain or affect the FSLIC's powers or functions as the receiver of Old BHS. This is an issue of first impression, and this court holds that a foreclosure would restrain or affect the FSLIC's powers or functions in this capacity.

It should first be noted that section 1464(d)(6)(C) is a broadly worded statute. It prohibits courts from not only restraining but *affecting* not only the powers but also the mere *functions* of receivers of failed savings and loan associations. In employing such language Congress undoubtedly meant to prohibit any court from taking any action that might affect the functions of such receivers. As the *Hudspeth* court noted: "Congress wanted the FSLIC to be able to act quickly and decisively in reorganizing, operating, or dissolving a failed institution, and intended that the FSLIC's ability to accomplish these goals not be interfered with by other judicial or regulatory authorities." *Hudspeth,* 756 F.2d at 1101.

The foreclosure by Murdock of its vendor's lien would affect the functions of the FSLIC in its capacity as the receiver of Old BHS. If it were allowed to foreclose its vendor's lien on the property in question the approximately $3,600,000 debt evidenced by the promissory note would be extinguished. This would deprive the FSLIC of a bargaining chip in its attempt to allocate the assets and liabilities of Old BHS. For example, it would deprive the FSLIC of the possibility of exchanging its obligation under this note, which is due in April, 1991, for a smaller obligation due before that date.

More importantly, during the foreclosure proceedings, and until the property was executed upon, the purchase price ascertained, and the property actually sold, the FSLIC would not know whether or not to make the in-

terest payments on the note to its holder, Murdock. This would disrupt and delay the receivership function and is unacceptable by reason of section 1464(d)(6)(C). As the *Hudspeth* court stated:

> [E]ven the facial merits of claims outside the statutory reorganization process would delay the receivership function of distribution of assets: the FSLIC would not be able to determine how much to pay other claimants until the termination of the parallel litigation. Given the overriding Congressional purpose of expediting and facilitating the FSLIC's task as receiver, such a delay is a "restraint" within the scope of the statute.

Hudspeth, 756 F.2d at 1102.

Murdock's contentions in opposition are unpersuasive. The basis of Murdock's argument is that this action to foreclose its vendor's lien will not affect the functions of the FSLIC in its capacity as Old BHS's receiver because it is not an action on the note and it will not require any party to make payments on the note. That, however, is not the issue. The question is whether the action will in any way affect the functions of the FSLIC in its capacity as receiver. As the discussion above makes clear, this question must be answered affirmatively.

For the same reason, Murdock's reliance on California Civil Code section 2890 is misplaced. As noted, that statute provides that the creation of a lien does not of itself imply that any person is bound to perform the act for which the lien is a security. Merely because foreclosure will not obligate any party to make payments on the note does not mean that the lien does not affect the FSLIC's receivership functions. Murdock's argument that under California law it may foreclose its vendor's lien on the property in question despite the fact that New BHS is not

liable on the note is equally unpersuasive. Again, the existence of this cause of action does not change the fact of effect on the functions of the receiver.

FSLIC is correct in arguing that Murdock's action to foreclose its vendor's lien on the property in question is barred by section 1464(d)(6)(C) because it affects the functions of the FSLIC in its capacity as Old BHS's receiver.

The FSLIC's second argument in support of its motion to dismiss, that Murdock's sole remedy is to file a claim with the FSLIC in its capacity as Old BHS's receiver and, if dissatisfied, to appeal to the FHLBB, also justifies dismissal of this action. The federal statutes and regulations discussed above make clear that the FHLBB has the exclusive power to make the FSLIC the *sole* receiver of a failed savings and loan association. 12 U.S.C. § 1729(c)(1)(B). This is exactly what happened in the case at hand. Furthermore, as noted earlier, these provisions make clear that Congress has given the FSLIC as receiver complete authority—subject only to review by the FHLBB—to adjudicate all claims against a failed association, to allocate the asets and liabilities of such an association, "and to do all other things that may be necessary in connection" with the liquidation of the association. 12 U.S.C. § 1729(d). FHLBB regulations provide that creditors of failed savings and loan associations may present their claims to the receiver of that association and if they are dissatisfied with his disposition of their claim they may appeal to the FHLBB. 12 C.F.R. § 549. These statutes and regulations—when viewed in conjunction with section 1464(d)(6)(C)—evidence Congress' intention that they should serve as the sole remedy for creditors of failed savings and loans associations. As the *Hudspeth* [court] noted:

> This administrative process serves to hasten the resolution of the receivership proceedings, in keeping with the Congressional purpose. Furthermore, the

> regulations reflect the view of the FHLBB, the enforcing agency for the relevant banking statutes, that the FSLIC is empowered to decide claims as part of its receivership function. The FHLBB's opinion is entitled to our deference. *Mattox v. FTC,* 752 F.2d 116, 123-24 (5th Cir.1985). . . .

Hudspeth, 756 F.2d at 1102-03.

Murdock's argument that this action should go ahead because these administrative remedies are inadequate is unpersuasive. Murdock contends that it will suffer irreparable harm if this court *both* dismisses this action *and* expunges the notice of lis pendens because New BHS savings intends to sell the property in question to a good faith purchaser for value who will take the property free and clear of any vendor's liens. Furthermore, Murdock argues that since the FHLBB cannot adjudicate its rights to the vendor's lien it will be deprived of a forum in which to establish this lien. The solution is two fold: first, the court will deny the motion to expunge the notice of lis pendens, and a third party purchaser will take title to the property with notice of and subject to the vendor's lien; and second, it must be remembered that Murdock has an interest in the property only to the extent that it seeks to satisfy its unsecured debt for approximately $3,600,000 that is evidenced by the note. It will not suffer irreparable injury if the property is sold because it can pursue its claim through the administrative mechanism discussed above. In short, the same is adequate to protect Murdock's interest.

Murdock's final two arguments in opposition to the FSLIC's motion to dismiss—also directed to the motion to expunge—are meritless. It suffices to say that the complexity of Murdock's pre-sale financing and sale and lease-back arrangement with Old BHS is not grounds for denying the FSLIC's motion to dismiss. Finally, the FSLIC's motions are not moot because the grounds upon which these motions are made are applicable to the first amended

complaint as well as the original complaint and Murdock had proper notice of the pendency of these motions.

The second motion made by the FSLIC is a motion to expunge the notice of lis pendens. For the reasons discussed below, this motion is denied.

FSLIC argues that the notice of lis pendens should be expunged for three different reasons. First, if this court grants the FSLIC's motion to dismiss this action there will be no pending action concerning the property in question within the meaning of California's lis pendens statute. This argument is rejected.

California's primary lis pendens statute, California Civil Procedure Code section 409, states in pertinent part:

> In an action concerning real property or affecting the title or the right of possession of real property, the plaintiff, at the time of filing the complaint, and the defendant, at the time of filing his answer, when affirmative relief is claimed in such answer, or at any time afterwards, may record in the office of the recorder of the county in which the property is situated, a notice of the pendency of the action, containing the names of the parties, and the object of the action or defense, and a description of the property in that county affected thereby. This section authorizes a notice of an action concerning real property pending in any United States district court to be recorded and indexed in the same manner and in the same place as herein provided with respect to notices of action pending in courts of this State.

Id.

California's expungement provision, California Civil Procedure Code section 409.1, provides in pertinent part:

> At any time after notice of pendency of an action has been recorded pursuant to Section 409 or other law, the court in which the action is pending shall,

upon motion of a party to the action supported by affidavit, order that the notice be expunged, unless the party filing the notice shows to the satisfaction of the court, by a preponderance of the evidence, that:

(a) The action does effect title to or right of possession of the real property described in the notice; and

(b) Insofar as the action affects title to or right of possession of the real property described in the notice, the party recording the notice has commenced or prosecuted the action for a proper purpose and in good faith.

Id. California Civil Procedure Code section 409.2, provides that a court may order that a notice be expunged if the moving party posts an undertaking sufficient to satisfy any damages that the party who recorded the notice may incur if the notice is expunged and the moving party does not ultimately prevail in the action concerning the property.

Under California law a notice of lis pendens is not automatically extinguished upon the entry of final judgment of the action concerning the property but remains on the record while that action is being appealed, subject to expungement under section 409.1 and 409.2. As the California Supreme Court has stated: "[W]e hold that the lis pendens may remain on record while the appeal is pending, subject to the statutory right of the adversely affected party to seek expungement under sections 409.1 and 409.2." *Peery v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County,* 29 Cal.3d 837, 842, 176 Cal.Rptr. 533, 536, 633 P.2d 198, 201 (1981); *California-Hawaii Development, Inc. v. Superior Court, County of Santa Clara,* 102 Cal.App.3d 293, 297, 162 Cal.Rptr. 365, 367 (1980).

None of the California cases holding that notices remain on the record during appeals have considered directly the question of whether they remain on record after final

judgment at the trial court level but *before* an appeal actually has been filed. It is implicit in these decisions, however, that following final judgment at the trial court level notices of lis pendens remain on the record at least during the statutory time period within which to file an appeal. *See, e.g., Howden-Goetzel v. Superior Court, County of Alameda,* 7 Cal.App.3d 135, 138-39, 86 Cal.Rptr. 323, 326 (1970) (noting that notices of lis pendens remain on the record from the time of an action's commencement until its final determination upon appeal). Retaining a notice on the record after final judgment but before the taking of an appeal also furthers the underlying purpose of lis pendens notices, i.e.., to put all potential purchasers of the property in question on notice that the title and other rights relating to the property are the subject of litigation. Under California law a notice of lis pendens remains on the record following final judgment in the trial court for at least as long as the statutory time within which an appeal must be filed. Under Fed.R.App.P. 4(a)(1) a notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days after the date of entry of the judgment.

Therefore, even if this court dismisses Murdock's action—as it should—this dismissal does not expunge the notice of lis pendens filed by Murdock. This notice should remain on the record for at least thirty days after the entry of this dismissal. If Murdock has not filed a notice of appeal within that time FSLIC should be allowed to renew its motion to expunge. If Murdock does file a notice of appeal within that time the notice of lis pendens naturally will stay on the record.

The second argument by FSLIC in support of its motion to expunge is that this action does not affect real property and thus cannot be the basis of a notice of lis pendens. This argument is meritless.

Section 409.1 makes clear that the party filing a notice of lis pendens must show to the satisfaction of the court,

by a preponderance of the evidence, that the action affects title to or right of possession of the real property described in the notice.

In determining whether an action affects title to real property, the relevant question is whether title to the property would be affected if the plaintiff were to prevail on its claim. *Malcolm v. Superior Court, Santa Clara County,* 29 Cal.3d 518, 526-28, 174 Cal.Rptr. 694, 698-99, 629 P.2d 495, 499-500 (1981). The plaintiff must make a "prima facie" case of the merits of his claim, which means that he must make an evidentiary showing, by affidavit or such other evidence as the court may permit, that he would be entitled to relief if his evidence is credited. *Id.* at 528 & n.6, 174 Cal.Rptr. at 699-700 & n.6, 629 P.2d at 500-501 & n.6. The California legislature, however, did not intend to transform the pre-trial expungement procedure into a type of minitrial on the merits of the case. *Id.* at 526, 174 Cal.Rptr. at 698, 629 P.2d at 499. Thus, the plaintiff need not demonstrate the likelihood of its success at trial in order to avoid expungement. *Id.*

It is clear that an action to foreclose an equitable lien, such as a vendor's lien, on real property is "clearly one which affects title or the right to possession of real property." *Okuda v. Superior Court,* 144 Cal.App.3d 135, 141, 192 Cal.Rptr. 388, 392 (1983). An established lien "is a direct charge or encumbrance upon the property" and the foreclosure of a lien can result in a forced sale of the property. *Id.*

In the case at hand Murdock clearly has satisfied its burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that if it ultimately prevails on appeal in its attempt to foreclose its vendor's lien on the property in question such action will affect title to the real property in question. Murdock has produced a number of exhibits demonstrating that this action potentially affects the real property in question.

The third and final argument put forth by the FSLIC in support of its motion to expunge the notice of lis pendens is that Murdock has waived its vendor's lien by taking a subordinated note. This argument is unpersuasive.

It is settled that if a vendor does any act manifesting an intention on his part not to rely on the lien thus given by law for the payment of the purchase money, such as taking security therefor, without an express agreement that he may still have his vendor's lien, the lien will not exist. *Finnell v. Finnell,* 156 Cal. 589, 594-95, 105 P. 740, 742 (1909); *McGreevy v. Constitution Life Insurance Company,* 238 Cal.App.2d 364, 369, 47 Cal.Rptr. 711, 715 (1965) (quoting *Finnell*). But the lien is presumed to exist, and is an incident of the transaction of sale, in all cases unless the intention of the vendor that it shall not exist be clearly manifested by his acts or declarations, and the burden of proof is on the vendee or his successors to show this intention. *Finnell,* 156 Cal. at 594-95, 105 P. at 742; *McGreevy,* 238 Cal.App.2d at 369, 47 Cal.Rptr. at 715. The act manifesting such an intention must be one substantially inconsistent with the continued existence of the lien, and cannot be inferred from the mere fact that the parties may not have contemplated the assertion of the lien in the first place. *Finnell,* 156 Cal. at 594-95, 105 P. at 742; *McGreevy,* 238 Cal.App.2d at 369, 47 Cal.Rptr. at 715.

In the case of *Royal Consolidated Mining Co. v. Royal Consolidated Mines Co.,* 157 Cal. 737, 110 P. 123 (1910), such a waiver was found to exist and to control the question of the precedence of the vendor's lien. There the court found that the facts surrounding the sale were such as to establish an inferential waiver of the vendor's lien. The essential situation created by the acts of the sellers was that the entire plan for the sale of the mining property necessitated the borrowing of money by the buyer from a third party as an essential part of the program, and that this total plan was such as to be vitally inconsistent with

any thought that the sellers would retain the priority of the vendor's lien.

In *McGreevy* the court held that the vendors had *not* waived their lien on oil and gas leases, despite the fact that a portion of the purchase price was secured, despite the fact that the vendors expressly consented in writing to the resale of the property by the vendee, and despite the fact that the subsequent vendee obtained a loan secured by a first deed of trust on the property in order to pay the purchase price. *McGreevy*, 238 Cal.App.2d at 365-71, 47 Cal.Rptr. at 712-15.

In the case at hand the FSLIC contends that Murdock waived its vendor's lien by taking a subordinated note. In support of this argument the FSLIC points to language in the note providing that "The payment of principal and interest on this Subordinated Note is hereby expressly subordinated in right of payment on liquidation to the extent and in the manner hereinafter set forth. . . ." FSLIC also relies upon and argues that this case is similar to the *Royal Consolidated Mining* case.

FSLIC has failed to carry its burden of establishing that Murdock intended to waive its vendor's lien merely because it took a subordinated position on the note. Murdock's actions and declarations do not "clearly manifest" its intention to waive its lien, nor are these actions and declarations "substantially inconsistent" with the continued existence of the lien. *Finnell,* 156 Cal. at 595, 105 P. at 742; *McGreevy,* 238 Cal.App.2d at 370, 47 Cal.Rptr. at 715. In fact, the note expressly provides that none of the "subordination provisions" contained therein "shall:"

> prevent the Holder [Murdock] from exercising all remedies otherwise permitted by applicable law upon default under this Subordinated Note, subject only to the rights, if any, under these subordination provisions of the holders of Senior Liabilities in respect of

> cash, property or securities of the Association payable upon the exercise of any such remedy.

Thus, the note reflects Murdock's intention to reserve remedies such as vendor's liens. Finally, it should be noted that the FSLIC's reliance on the *Royal Consolidated Mining* case is misplaced because there was a great deal more evidence in that case than in the present one evidencing the vendor's intention to waive its vendor's lien. This court rejects the FSLIC's argument that the notice of lis pendens should be expunged on the ground that Murdock has waived its lien on the property in question.

None of the arguments put forth by the FSLIC in support of its motion to expunge the notice of lis pendens is persuasive. Its motion to expunge is denied.

APPENDIX C

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

No. 86-5600
86-5639
D.C. No. CV-85-3908-RG

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, PLAINTIFF-APPELLANT/CROSS APPELLEE,

VS.

BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS, A FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOC.; BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, DEFENDANTS-APPELLEES/CROSS APPELLANTS.

Filed and entered April 3, 1987

JUDGMENT

APPEAL from the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard on the Transcript of the Record from the United States District Court for the Central District of California and was duly submitted.

ON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, It is now here ordered and adjudged by this Court, that the judgment of the said District Court in this Cause be, and hereby is AFFIRMED IN PART, REVERSED IN PART AND REMANDED WITH INSTRUCTIONS.

APPENDIX D

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

C.A. No. 86-5600
86-5639
D.C. No. CV-85-3908-RG

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, PLAINTIFF-APPELLANT/CROSS APPELLEE,

VS.

BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS, A FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOC.; BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, DEFENDANTS-APPELLEES/CROSS APPELLANTS.

Filed June 1, 1987

ORDER

Before: NELSON, BEEZER, and LEAVY,* Circuit Judges

The panel has voted to deny the petition for rehearing and to reject the suggestion for rehearing en banc.

The full court has been advised of the suggestion for rehearing en banc and no judge in active service has requested a vote to rehear the matter en banc.

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* At the time this appeal was heard, the Honorable Edward Leavy was a United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, sitting by designation. He is now a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Portland, Oregon.

Pursuant to Rule 35(b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the petition for rehearing is denied and the suggestion for rehearing en banc is rejected.

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Supreme Court, U.S.
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(2)

No. 87-452

In the Supreme Court

OF THE

United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1987

FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN INSURANCE CORPORATION
as Receiver for
BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION,
Petitioner,

VS.

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, a Partnership,
Respondent.

BRIEF OF MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES IN RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 12 U.S.C. §§ 1464(d)(6)(C) and 1729(d) grant the Federal Home Loan Bank Board exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate all claims involving the assets of an insolvent, federally insured savings and loan association.

2. Whether the Federal Home Loan Bank Board's assumption of exclusive jurisdiction over state law claims involving the assets of an insolvent, federally insured savings and loan association violates Article III, Section I of the U.S. Constitution.

3. Whether the Federal Home Loan Bank Board's administrative claims procedure is applicable in connection with a receivership in which the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation has entered into a purchase and assumption transaction in lieu of conducting a liquidating receivership.

4. Whether the Federal Home Loan Bank Board's application of its administrative claims procedure to the receivership of an institution that has become the subject of a purchase and assumption transaction constitutes a taking of property without due process of law, in violation of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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No. 87-452

In the Supreme Court

OF THE

United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1987

FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN INSURANCE CORPORATION
as Receiver for
BEVERLY HILLS SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION,
Petitioner,

VS.

MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES, a Partnership,
Respondent.

BRIEF OF MURDOCK-SC ASSOCIATES IN RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Murdock-SC Associates ("Murdock") respectfully submits this Brief in response to the Petition of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation ("FSLIC") that a writ of certiorari issue to review the order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, dated April 3, 1987, reversing the dismissal of Murdock's suit and remanding the case for trial on the merits.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In April, 1984, Murdock sold an office building in Los Angeles, California to Beverly Hills Savings and Loan ("Old BHS"). As part of the purchase price, Old BHS gave Murdock an unsecured subordinated promissory

note in the sum of approximately $3,600,000, plus interest ("the Note"). E.R. 28-30.[1]

In or about April, 1985, Old BHS defaulted under the terms of the Note by, among other things, failing to meet the net worth and federal insurance reserve requirements set forth in the Note. E.R. 24.

On April 23, 1985, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board ("FHLBB") found that Old BHS was insolvent, and appointed the FSLIC as receiver for Old BHS. E.R. 63-66. On the same date, FHLBB authorized FSLIC as receiver to organize a new, federally chartered savings and loan association under the name Beverly Hills Federal Savings and Loan Association ("New BHS") to take over the assets of Old BHS. E.R. 67-69. In order to avoid the liquidation of Old BHS and the payment of insurance on its accounts, FHLBB further authorized FSLIC to enter into a "purchase and assumption" transaction, on the following terms:

> (1) FHLBB authorized FSLIC as receiver for Old BHS to enter into an Acquisition Agreement with New BHS under which New BHS would purchase substantially all the assets of Old BHS from the receiver, and would assume substantially all of the liabilities of Old BHS.
>
> (2) FHLBB further authorized FSLIC to enter into a Receiver's Agreement, pursuant to which FSLIC in its corporate capacity would purchase from FSLIC as receiver for Old BHS all of the remaining assets of Old BHS which had not been transferred to New BHS under the Acquisition Agreement.

E.R. 70-72.

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[1] "E.R." denotes the Excerpts of Record filed in the Court of Appeals.

Pursuant to FHLBB's authorization, on April 23, 1985, New BHS and FSLIC, as receiver for Old BHS, entered into an Acquisition Agreement, and FSLIC in its corporate capacity and as receiver for Old BHS, entered into a Receiver's Agreement. E.R. 73-77.

Under the terms of the Acquisition Agreement, New BHS acquired almost all of the assets of Old BHS, including the office building Murdock had sold to Old BHS. However, the liability of Old BHS on the Note remained with Old BHS. E.R. 78-91.

Under the terms of the Receiver's Agreement, FSLIC as receiver for Old BHS sold to FSLIC in its corporate capacity *all* of the remaining assets of Old BHS which had not been purchased by New BHS pursuant to the Acquisition Agreement. In addition, FSLIC in its corporate capacity assumed all of the receiver's obligations under the Acquisition Agreement, except for the liabilities of Old BHS, like the Note, owed to the management, shareholders or holders of the subordinated debt of Old BHS. E.R. 92-107.

Thus, contrary to FSLIC's assertion that certain assets were retained in the receivership estate, in order to meet the expenses of the receivership and possibly pay Old BHS' liabilities to holders of its subordinated debt,[2] the combined effect of the Acquisition Agreement and the Receiver's Agreement was to leave the receivership estate devoid of assets, and to render the Note worthless.

Instead of passively accepting a $3,600,000.00 loss, Murdock filed a Complaint in the Los Angeles County Superior Court on May 2, 1985, to foreclose a vendor's lien under California Civil Code § 3046. That statute endows a seller of real property with a vendor's lien on

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[2]Petition at 5.

the property "for so much of the price as remains unpaid and unsecured otherwise than by a personal obligation of the buyer." The Complaint named Old BHS and New BHS as defendants.

Since the lawsuit concerned real property and affected the title and the right to possession of real property, Murdock simultaneously recorded a notice of the pendency of the action with the office of the Los Angeles County Recorder, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 409(a).[3]

On or about June 13, 1985, FSLIC, as receiver for Old BHS, removed the action to federal court pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1730(k)(1). In addition, FSLIC and New BHS moved to dismiss Murdock's claim and to expunge the notice of lis pendens.

On December 20, 1985, the district court issued an order granting FSLIC's motion to dismiss but denying FSLIC's motion to expunge the lis pendens. *Murdock-SC Associates v. Beverly Hills Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n*, 624 F. Supp. 948 (C.D. Cal. 1985). The Ninth Circuit subsequently reversed the district court's judgment of dismissal and remanded the case for trial on the merits of Murdock's foreclosure action. *Murdock-SC Associates v.*

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[3]California Code of Civil Procedure, § 409(a), provides, in pertinent part:

> In an action concerning real property or affecting the title or the right of possession of real property, the plaintiff . . . may record in the office of the recorder of the county in which the property is situated, a notice of the pendency of the action. . . . From the time of filing such notice for record only, shall a purchaser or encumbrancer of the property affected thereby be deemed to have constructive notice of the pendency of the action as it relates to the real property and only of its pendency against parties designated by their real names.

Beverly Hills Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n, 815 F.2d 82 (9th Cir. 1987).

DISCUSSION

Murdock agrees with FSLIC that review on a writ of certiorari is appropriate, under Sup. Ct. R. 17.1(a), because of a conflict between the Ninth Circuit's decisions in this case and *Morrison-Knudsen Co. v. CHG International, Inc.*, 811 F.2d 1209 (9th Cir. 1987), petition for cert. pending *sub nom. FSLIC v. Stevenson Associates*, No. 87-451 (filed September 17, 1987) and the Fifth Circuit's decisions in *North Mississippi Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Hudspeth*, 756 F.2d 1096 (5th Cir. 1985), *cert. denied*, 474 U.S. 1054 (1986), and other cases. Murdock disagrees, however, with FSLIC's contention that the only question presented by this case is whether claims against the assets of a savings and loan in receivership must be presented to FHLBB for administrative resolution in accordance with FHLBB regulations.

First, there is an issue as to whether 12 U.S.C. §§ 1464(d)(6)(C)[4] and 1729(d)[5] grant FHLBB exclu-

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[4]12 U.S.C. § 1464(d)(6)(C) provides:

> Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no court may take any action for or toward the removal of any conservator or receiver [appointed by the FHLBB] or, except at the instance of the Board, restrain or affect the exercise of powers or functions of a conservator or receiver.

[5]12 U.S.C. § 1729(d) provides:

> In connection with the liquidation of insured institutions, the [FSLIC] shall have power to carry on the business of and to collect all obligations to the insured institutions, to settle, compromise or release claims in favor of or against the insured institutions, and to do all other things that may be necessary in connection therewith, subject only to the regulation of the

sive jurisdiction to adjudicate all claims involving the assets of an insolvent, federally insured savings and loan association. FSLIC interprets these statutes to divest both state and federal courts of jurisdiction and to grant it exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate all disputes arising in connection with the receivership of a federally insured savings and loan association. E.R. 45-46. This interpretation is inconsistent with the clear grant to the district courts of jurisdiction over such matters contained in 12 U.S.C. § 1730(k)(1)(B),[6] and is not supported by the language of §§ 1729(d) and 1464(d)(6)(C), the legislative history of those statutes, or the regulations issued by FHLBB pursuant to those statutes.

Second, if FHLBB does have adjudicatory power, there is an issue as to whether FHLBB's assumption of exclusive jurisdiction over state law claims involving the assets of an insolvent, federally insured savings and loan associ-

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> [FHLBB], or, in cases where the [FSLIC] has been appointed conservator, receiver, or legal custodian solely by a public authority having jurisdiction of the matter other than said Board, subject only to the regulation of such public authority.

[6] 12 U.S.C. § 1730(k)(1)(B) provides in pertinent part:

> Notwithstanding any other provision of law . . . (B) any civil action, suit, or proceeding to which the [FSLIC] shall be a party shall be deemed to arise under the laws of the United States, and the United States district courts shall have original jurisdiction thereof, without regard to the amount in controversy; . . . *Provided*, That any action, suit, or proceeding to which the [FSLIC] is a party in its capacity as a conservator, receiver, or other legal custodian of an insured State-chartered institution and which involves only the rights or obligations of investors, creditors, stockholders, and such institution under State law shall not be deemed to arise under the laws of the United States.

Since the instant litigation involves New BHS, which is not an investor, creditor or stockholder of Old BHS, the exception contained in the quoted language is not applicable here.

ation, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §§ 1464(d)(6)(C) and 1729(d), and FHLBB's regulations,[7] violates Article III, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. In other words, there is a question as to whether Congress may vest in FSLIC the power to adjudicate, render final judgment and issue binding orders in connection with an action like Murdock's arising under state law, without Murdock's consent, and subject only to ordinary appellate review. Under the principles upheld by this Court in *Northern Pipeline Construction Co. v. Maritime Pipe Line Co.,* 458 U.S. 50 (1982), *Thomas v. Union Carbide Agricultural Products Co.,* 473 U.S. 568 (1985), and *CFTC v. Schor,* 106 S. Ct. 3245, 92 L. Ed. 2d 675 (1986), Murdock cannot be compelled to submit its vendor's lien claim (arising under state law) to an administrative agency not qualifying as a tribunal under Article III of the Constitution.

Third, there is an issue as to whether FHLBB's administrative claims procedure is applicable in connection with a receivership in which FSLIC has entered into a purchase and assumption transaction in lieu of conducting a liquidating receivership.

A purchase and assumption transaction is a receivership proceeding in which the assets and liabilities of a failed association, generally not including obligations to holders of subordinated debt of the association, are fully assumed by another association promptly after the receiver's taking possession of the failed association. *See*

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[7]FSLIC incorrectly refers in its Petition to the claims procedure set forth in 12 C.F.R. Part 549, instead of the claims procedure contained in 12 C.F.R. Part 569a. 12 C.F.R. Part 549 contains the regulations that apply to FSLIC when it acts as receiver for a federally-chartered savings and loan association. The regulations that apply to FSLIC when it acts as receiver for a state-chartered association, such as Old BHS, are found in 12 C.F.R. Part 569a (1987).

generally, FDIC v. Merchants Nat'l Bank, 725 F.2d 634 (11th Cir.), *cert. denied,* 469 U.S. 829 (1984); *Gunter v. Hutcheson,* 674 F.2d 682 (11th Cir.), *cert. denied,* 459 U.S. 826 (1982); *Washington Fed. Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Federal Home Loan Bank Bd.,* 526 F. Supp. 343 (N.D. Ohio 1981). A purchase and assumption transaction is one of the alternatives made available to FSLIC to deal with the default of an insured savings and loan association. 12 U.S.C. §§ 1729(c)(1)(B)(i) (II), 1729(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 1729(a). FHLBB's regulations provide that the administrative claims procedure is *not* applicable where FSLIC is acting as receiver for an institution that has become the subject of a purchase and assumption transaction. 12 C.F.R. § 569a.13 (1987).[8]

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[8]12 C.F.R. § 569a.13 provides:

> The requirements set forth in §§ 569a.5(a), 569a.6(c)(3), 569a.8, 569a.9 and 569a.10 shall not apply to [FSLIC] as receiver for an institution that becomes the subject of a purchase and assumption transaction.

FHLBB has recently proposed new regulations concerning receiverships. 50 Fed. Reg. 48970 (1985). Under the proposed regulations, new Part 569c will provide substantive rules for the conduct of all receiverships in which FSLIC has been appointed as receiver by FHLBB, whether of state or federal associations. 50 Fed. Reg. at 78971. Proposed § 569c.15 would cover purchase and assumption transactions in lieu of existing § 569a.13, and would be applicable to the receiverships of both state and federal associations. 50 Fed. Reg. at 48982.

Although a purchase and assumption transaction is not defined by the existing regulations, proposed 12 C.F.R. § 569c.15(a) would define a purchase and assumption transaction as:

> a receivership proceeding in which the creditor liabilities of an association, not including obligations to holders of subordinated debt of the association, are fully assumed by another insured institution, a bank the deposits of which are insured by the FDIC, or the [FSLIC] in its corporate capacity and not as

The claims procedure is superfluous in a purchase and assumption transaction because after the FSLIC conducts a purchase and assumption transaction there are no assets left in the receivership estate with which FSLIC might conceivably pay claims. Murdock is not asserting a claim against the receivership estate; it is attempting to enforce its lien against the property that FSLIC has transferred to New BHS *subject to that lien.*[9]

> conservator, receiver, or legal custodian, promptly following the receiver's taking possession of the association.

50 Fed. Reg. at 48996. Of course, this is a precise description of the transaction involved in the receivership of Old BHS.

Under FHLBB's proposed rules, new § 569c.15 "would continue to address and recognize the unique characteristics of receiverships followed by purchase and assumption transactions. . . ." presently recognized by § 569a.13. 50 Fed. Reg. at 48982. As FHLBB explains:

> Given the fact that a purchase and assumption transaction will provide for the assumption of creditor and depositor obligations of the association, the detailed claims procedures prescribed by the new receivership regulations are unnecessary.

50 Fed.Reg. at 48982. Therefore, under proposed § 569c.15(b), the new claims procedures which FHLBB has proposed to adopt "shall *not* apply to FSLIC as receiver for an association that becomes the subject of a purchase and assumption transaction." 50 Fed. Reg. at 48996 (emphasis added).

[9]Neither the Acquisition Agreement, nor the Receiver's Agreement, purports to transfer the assets of Old BHS free and clear of liens, and FHLBB's regulations do not provide for the avoidance of liens by FSLIC or for the transfer of property by FSLIC free and clear of liens. Indeed, under 12 C.F.R. § 569a.7(a)(2)(1987), FSLIC is required to recognize secured claims in accordance with state law. However, FHLBB has proposed to give FSLIC lien avoidance powers under § 569c.6 of the new regulations presently under consideration. 50 Fed. Reg. 48970, 48976 (1985). Aside from the initial question of whether the applicable statutes permit FHLBB to grant FSLIC authority to avoid liens, there is the more substantial issue of the *process* by which FSLIC might avoid liens. For example, under

Even if 12 U.S.C. § 1729(d) could be deemed to authorize FHLBB to adjudicate some claims, it plainly does not authorize FHLBB to adjudicate claims against an entity like New BHS, which has been created by FSLIC to assume the assets of Old BHS, and which is not in receivership. The grant of authority contained in § 1729(d) is limited to claims asserted in favor of or against institutions for which FSLIC has been appointed receiver. Consequently, under the express terms of the statute, FHLBB does not have authority to adjudicate Murdock's claim for a vendor's lien on the property of New BHS, because FSLIC has not been appointed receiver for New BHS.

Fourth, there is an issue as to whether FHLBB's application of the administrative claims procedure to the receivership of an institution that has become the subject of a purchase and assumption transaction constitutes a taking of property without due process of law, in violation of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Under California law, a vendor's lien may only be established by a suit in equity. *Mills v. Mills,* 147

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the Bankruptcy Code, the bankruptcy trustee is granted lien avoidance powers by 11 U.S.C. § 544. In order to exercise these powers, however, the trustee is required to file an adversary proceeding against the creditor whose lien he seeks to avoid. 11 U.S.C. § 546(a); Bankruptcy Rule 7001(2). An adversary proceeding before the bankruptcy court is subject to the procedure set forth in Part VII of the Bankruptcy Rules. Bankruptcy Rule 7001. The rules contained in Part VII provide for essentially the same procedures as those governing litigation before the district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See* Bankruptcy Rules 7002 through 7087. By way of contrast, FHLBB's proposed rules provide for summary avoidance of lien claims by FSLIC. In other words, FHLBB is attempting to merge the traditionally separate functions of the receiver-trustee, on the one hand, and the court, on the other hand. *See Riehle v. Margolies*, 279 U.S. 545 (1929) (adjudication of claims not included in traditional powers of receiver).

Cal.App.2d 107, 118, 305 P.2d 61, 68 (1956). Consequently, neither FSLIC, as receiver, nor FHLBB, has subject matter jurisdiction to establish the existence of or to enforce Murdock's vendor's lien under California law. Moreover, neither entity has in rem jurisdiction over the property which is the subject of Murdock's lien, since the office building has been transferred by FSLIC to New BHS, an entirely separate entity, and is no longer subject to the control of FSLIC or FHLBB.

If Murdock's suit is dismissed, and its notice of lis pendens is expunged,[10] New BHS may sell the office

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[10]California Code of Civil Procedure § 409.1(b) provides in pertinent part:

> Upon recordation of a certified copy of the order expunging a notice of pendency of the action in the office of the county recorder in which the notice of the pendency of the action was recorded neither the notice of the pendency of the action nor any information derived therefrom, prior to the recording of a certified copy of the judgment or decree issued therein, shall constitute constructive or actual notice of any of the matters contained therein, or of any of the matters relating to such action, or create any duty of inquiry in any person thereafter dealing with the property described therein.

Code of Civil Procedure Section 409.8 provides in pertinent part:

> [U]pon recordation of a certified copy of an order expunging a notice of pendency of an action . . ., no person, except a person who is a nonfictitious party to the action at the time of the recording of the . . . order of expungement, who thereafter becomes, by conveyance recorded prior to the recording of a certified copy of the judgment or decree issued therein, a purchaser, transferee, mortgagee, or other encumbrancer for a valuable consideration of any interest in the real property subject to the action shall be deemed to have actual knowledge of the action or any matter claimed, alleged, or contended therein, irrespective of whether such person actually possessed actual [sic] knowledge, and irrespective of when or how such knowledge was obtained. It is the intention of the Legislature that this

building to a third party. Since a purchaser of the building in good faith and for value will take the property free of Murdock's lien,[11] the lien will be extinguished upon sale, without an adjudication on the merits of Murdock's claim, either by a court or by the receiver. Unless Murdock is permitted to pursue its suit to foreclose its lien, not only will its rights in the property be destroyed, but it will be deprived of any meaningful forum in which it could conceivably establish its rights. No possible outcome in the administrative claims procedure, even a ruling in Murdock's favor, could enable Murdock to enforce its lien against the property of New BHS, since that property is no longer subject to FSLIC's control.

Murdock's rights are abridged in the context of FSLIC's purchase and assumption transaction in a way they would not be in a straight liquidation of Old BHS, because the property upon which Murdock is asserting a lien has been transferred out of the receivership estate, without Murdock having been afforded a meaningful opportunity even to attempt to enforce its lien on the property. In a liquidation or Chapter 7 bankruptcy, at least the property would still be in the estate and Murdock would have an opportunity to argue for the existence of its lien in a forum in which the lien could conceivably be enforced.

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section shall provide for the absolute and complete free transferability of real property after the expungement or withdrawal of a notice of pendency of action.

[11]California Civil Code § 3048 provides in pertinent part that the vendor's lien established by California Civil Code § 3046 is "valid against everyone claiming under the debtor, except a purchaser or encumbrancer in good faith and for value."

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ for certiorari should be granted and the Court should address the issues presented in this Brief.

DATED: January 22, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

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I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the City and County of Los Angeles; I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 1706 Maple Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

On January 22, 1988, I served the within Response to Petition for A Writ of Certiorari in re: "Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation vs. Murdock-SC Associates" in the United States Supreme Court, October Term 1987, No. 87-452;

On the Parties in said action, by placing four copies thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage prepaid, in the United States post office mail box at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

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All Parties required to be served have been served.

I certify (or declare), under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 22, 1988, at Los Angeles, California

CE CE MEDINA